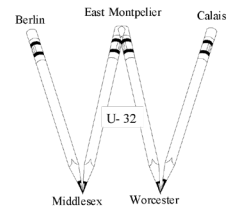


Washington Central Unified Union School District

WCUUSD exists to nurture and inspire in all students the passion, creativity and power to contribute to their local and global communities.

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**Washington Central Unified Union School District
Configuration Committee Meeting
February 19, 2025
U-32
930 Gallison Hill Rd
Montpelier, VT
Virtual Only
5:00-6:00 PM**

Committee Members Present: Superintendent Dellinger-Pate, Flor Diaz Smith, Rebecca Tatistcheff, Kealy Sloan, Shannon Miller, Matthew DeGroot, Daisy Scarzello, Julia Hewitt, Jeanie Phillips, Daniel Keeney Anna Matheson, Chris McVeigh, Gillian Fuqua

Others: Lila Richardson, Noah Weinstein, Marilyn Martin, David Delcore, Caitlin Howansky

- 1. Call to Order: Flor Diaz Smith called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.** She introduced Jeanie Phillips
- 2. Configuration Committee Meeting**
 - 2.1. [Agenda](#)**

Define Configuration: Jeanie Phillips shared with the committee an updated, redlined version of the Definition of the Configuration Committee. She invited feedback. Chris McVeigh asked, how do you define “credible”? Jeanie Phillips stated that this word came from the original charge that had been stated for the committee. She reviewed the definition of the word. Julia Hewitt asked, what about considering “redesign” versus “design” in the statement.

Anna Matheson stated that she and others had joined the Configuration Committee under its origin and she does not like the idea of changing the name of the committee or the verbiage of the statement. Flor Diaz Smith asked a straw poll of the group, how they feel about the updated draft - all thumbs up.

Affirm the Updated Criteria: Kealy Sloan had taken the criteria, as discussed from the previous meeting, and made some edits for the group to consider. Daisy Scarzello stated that Compensation and Prep time are worth itemizing. Anna Matheson stated that she likes the verbiage “indicator”. Some discussion followed in regards to “indicator” versus “criteria.”

Daisy Scarzello asked - what is meant by community support? Kealy Sloan stated the meaning of that is that the community supports the proposal. Jeanie Phillips reviewed that in the past the board had tried to compare various proposals to the criterion table.

Dan Keeney stated that we did not have as coherent a structure of a criterion document at that time - it felt more like a “moving target.” He stated that capturing the voices of various stakeholders would be very important. He stated that there was conversation in the past about how a building would be dealt with, if a school were closed. “Financial implications of a closed school on a town.” This will be added to the criterion table.

Becca Tatistcheff asked whom and how are the proposals being developed?

Flor Diaz Smith stated that this group is trying to come up with criteria that corresponds with what we want for our children - we are “designing together” with administration, or we are informing the work of the administration.

Shannon Miller stated that some of the things we do not know, like the impact of closing a school - there are some things that we do know that could be helpful for the community, in the discussion and consideration. Jeanie Phillips summarized:

- There are still some question marks in this document - the steering committee can further refine.
- Need to capture various stakeholder voices (staff, union, community forums)
- What folks are concerned about - what are their highest priorities?

Daniel Keeney stated that the superintendent’s statement about a plan for the process would be helpful for the committee to consider, as a written document, for the next meeting - to provide some input.

Build Consensus on the Conditions of the Work: Jeanie Phillips stated that the question is - what is the solid information that we know? What do we agree on so that we can keep coming back to it? Let us look at projected enrollment and see if we can come to agreement. Also, perhaps a facilities analysis?

Steven Dellinger-Pate shared data on building capacity, and enrollment (current and projected). Projected enrollment, 2030: 1206 total students projected (Pre-K thru 12). He stated that preschool enrollment (2030) is a rough estimate, as those children have not yet been born. They are based on trends and tend to be accurate.

Gillian Fuqua wondered, understanding that we can’t take physical buildings out entirely, if we were to look at projected enrollment as a whole, not town by town, having a more holistic viewpoint (e.g. birthrate is declining nationally). Looking at it as a whole might allow for more creative problem solving. She stated that looking at enrollment town by town is like stepping in a minefield.

Matt DeGroot stated that he is willing to look at that data as a whole but also our role as a committee is to go into the uncomfortable places and “stepping on mines” as she had indicated.

Steven Dellinger-Pate stated that we are a system that was created for about 100 students per grade level but the reality that we are facing is around 80 - 90 students per grade level. What are the implications for program planning?

Becca Tatistcheff asked, what are the ways in which we display information that helps to open up possibilities, rather than closing them off?

Chris McVeigh suggested looking at maps that show where students are located, by grade level, where they are clustered, from a birds eye view. This would help to see, according to the school that they are near. (Obliterating town lines essentially)

Matt DeGroot asked, can we see a map that shows density of population, but at the same time, what is the capacity of the administrative team to do these things?

Steven Dellinger-Pate stated that we continue to balance the requests with what we are able to deliver, and just be honest about our capacity. He is not sure at this time, but he agrees that it is important to look at data in different ways for creative thinking. Bring enrollment back to the committee in different formats.

Jeanie Phillips shared: *Facilities document*: from the facility assessment in 2023. For each school, capacity is shown, also for each school, a summary of what is available in the classroom, what is the condition of the classroom. Steven Dellinger-Pate stated that occupancy is based on the AOE - this is the maximum number based on square footage. Flor Diaz Smith will share the capital/ facilities plan for WCUUSD.

Anna Matheson asked whether EMES is not currently using all of the rooms in the building. Steven Dellinger-Pate stated that there are spaces that are not being used in some of the schools, but as typical with schools, the teachers and students spread to make use of space. Are all of the classrooms currently being used for full time classrooms? Not in all of the buildings, this is always dynamic.

Daniel Keeney brought up the issue of PCB. He also stated that it would be helpful to consider air and energy consumption for each building. Steven Dellinger-Pate stated that we have a good idea of what is the cost of facilities upkeep for each space.

Next Steps:

- **Next meeting:** March 19th

Communications Committee and Steering Committee will find time to meet and work:

- Design process
- Criteria table
- More information regarding facilities including projected housing
- Programmatic considerations from administration for the committee to consider (e.g. before and after schoolchild care).

Flor Diaz Smith stated that we need to finalize the budget, give some room to our administrators, get through town meeting votes, etc. At the same time, she does not want the work of the committee to come to a halt. She invited input from committee members - “we all own this work.”

Jeanie Phillips shared the Configuration Timeline document, which had been created via backwards planning. She invited feedback from committee members.

Kealy Sloan asked are we going to see a community school model and a middle school model through June and then in July see other models? Steven Dellinger-Pate clarified - programmatic considerations, not necessarily models. Kealy expressed concern that we would not be considering other options until July. Flor Diaz Smith stated that this would be an ongoing discussion; Kealy stated that the timeline should be edited to reflect this.

Daniel Keeney suggested clarification around community input at each meeting. The Communications Committee will help to flesh out these details as well. Dan Keeney stated that the board has received feedback from the public that the first meeting of the month are “disingenuously called so” would it be possible to invite community input sessions at configuration meetings.

Lila Richardson stated that it would be helpful to know how to write a letter and share with the entire committee; she would prefer to do that at this late hour. Flor Diaz Smith stated that we are working on a group email. She invited to send the email to Spencer, to her and to Superintendent Dellinger-Pate and it would be shared widely with the committee. Lila Richardson stated that she hopes that there will be opportunities for the public to provide input.

Noah Weinstein stated, in terms of the criteria, the idea of “community support” for any configuration model would be important that the community which will be most affected by the model demonstrates support of said model. He referred to what happened during the last cycle regarding Doty School.

3. **Adjourn: The committee adjourned at 6:05 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Grace, Committee Recording Secretary